

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 699 - SB 1223

March 7, 2015

SUMMARY OF BILL: Establishes requirements and protections for healthcare providers that practice telehealth. Defines “telehealth” or “telemedicine” as the use of real-time audio, video, or other electronic media and telecommunications technologies that enable interaction between the healthcare provider and the patient, or also store-and-forward telemedicine services for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation, or treatment of a patient in another location where there may be no in-person exchange.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 56-7-1002, telehealth services, including store-and-forward telemedicine services are currently required to be provided to any beneficiary of a health insurance policy offered by a licensed health insurance entity in this state, including plans administered by the Division of Health Care Finance and Administration (HCFA), are required to be reimbursed at a rate consistent with what the health insurance policy or contract provides for in-person encounters for the same service, whether provided by a health insurance provider in-network or out-of-network.
- Based on information provided by HCFA, telehealth services are covered under TennCare, CoverKids, and AccessTN. The provisions of the bill will not significantly affect current services.
- Both carriers of the healthcare plans administered by the Department of Finance and Administration, Division of Benefits Administration, currently cover telehealth services; therefore, this will not impact the state sponsored health plans.
- The provisions of the bill will not significantly affect the oversight or regulatory functions of the Department of Commerce and Insurance or the Department of Health.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffrey L. Spalding".

Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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/jdb